

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Thomas W. Harker
Acting Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D542
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Acting Secretary Harker,

As Members of Congress, we strongly support naming a Navy Surface Combatant after a Filipino sailor who received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1915 – Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad.

Trinidad earned the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in the line of duty during boiler explosions onboard the USS San Diego (ACR-6) while the ship was underway in the Gulf of California on January 21, 1915. Trinidad brought two crewmembers to safety in spite of his own physical injuries from the explosion. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in accordance with General Order Number 142 signed by the Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on April 1, 1915. The Medal of Honor, which was awarded during peacetime, highlights the importance of service and sacrifice for shipmates and country not only during a time of war but during day-to-day operations. After 106 years, Trinidad still holds the distinction of being the only Asian American and only Filipino American in the U.S. Navy to receive a Medal of Honor.

The naming of a ship after Trinidad is a resolute symbol of Navy leadership and commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion during this time of national racial tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It also marks the 75th anniversary of the U.S. establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Philippines and the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

Equally important, it will honor the tens of thousands of Filipinos who have served faithfully and loyally in the U.S. Navy since 1901. The USS Telesforo Trinidad will be the first ship to be named after an American national of Filipino descent and will serve as a testament to the long-standing military and political alliance that exists between the Philippines and the United States since 1898.

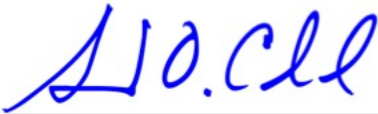
We look forward to your response and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

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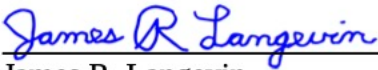
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
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Ed Case
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
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MIKE LEVIN
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Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



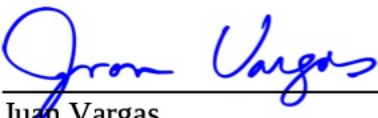
Scott H. Peters
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